

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Gate Cottage – Toccoa Falls College  
Toccoa, GA  
January 28, 2016

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at Gate Cottage at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, Georgia. The meeting was co-hosted by City of Toccoa and Stephens County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Chairman Scarborough also serves as a Stephens County Commissioner. He recognized from Stephens County, Dennis Bell, Commission Chairman; Phyllis Ayers, County Manager; County Clerk, Beth Rider; and County Commissioner Michelle Ivester. City of Toccoa's Mayor Evan Hellenga also welcomed everyone to Toccoa and Toccoa Falls College Campus. He recognized Stephens County Commissioners Terry Carter, Gail Fry, and David Austin.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Joel Katz, Aide with Rep. Collins' Office; Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Danette Smith, Department of Labor; and Frank Riley, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Kevin Tallant gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Avita Community Partners

Ms. Deborah Mack introduced our speaker Ms. Cindy Levi, CEO of Avita Community Partners. Ms. Mack serves on the Avita Board of Directors. Ms. Levi presented a very informative power point presentation on the services that Avita has to offer to the citizens in our region. Avita was previously known as Georgia Mountains Community Services before they name changed. They serve people experiencing the disabling effects of mental illness, developmental disabilities or addictive diseases in the same 13 counties the RC serves. Their administrative offices are located in Flowery Branch with 13 treatment offices located throughout the area. Their services include treatment, rehabilitation, and community support designed to help manage illness or disability, improve quality of life, and be as independent as possible. Psychoeducational and counseling services are available to individuals and families to promote self-help skills for coping, problem solving, and recovery.

## CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the December 4, 2015 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried unanimously. (Attendance report attached)

## REPORTS

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported he attended the DDAA Meeting in Athens. DDAA is the staff level of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, DC. The meeting was well attended by all states in ARC. The future of DDAA was discussed and also it was reported that the funds coming from ARC in Washington should double this year.

The Annual DDAA Conference that is held in Washington will be held in April. Several staff will be representing the RC at the conference this year. Heather Feldman and Faith Bryan will remain in Washington for the Economic Development Conference which will be held immediately following the DDAA Conference.

The Annual Okefenokee Occasion was held at the Depot in Atlanta on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lewis, Adam Hazell, and Heather Feldman attended this event representing GMRC. Southern Georgia RC sponsors this event each year.

Mr. Lewis asked all city and counties that are planning on submitting grants this year, to give the RC staff ample time to prepare them. A lot of preparation is incorporated into these grants before being submitted and the staff needs time to do so.

### Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Report for December. The Cash Position as of December 31, 2015 showed a bank balance of \$1,116,504, receivables of \$160,040 and payables of \$465,471, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$811,073. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$2,340,812, Expenditures of \$2,257,751, with 50 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. David Austin made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Sonny James. Motion carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

## NEW BUSINESS

### Review of Amendment to Bylaws

Kevin Tallant, RC Attorney, reported that during previous audits the auditors have questioned how GMRC Council and staff could win door prizes when the Bylaws state that they cannot receive any gifts. The Bylaws have been changed to clarify that door prizes that are awarded at GMRC meetings are open to the public and any member of the public in attendance at these

meetings are equally eligible to win a door prize. This Bylaw change has been sent to the Council for their review and will be voted on at the February meeting.

#### Contract for Cleaning Services

Bids were previously sent out for Cleaning Services for the offices on Ridge Road and Hilton Drive. Five bids were received with the lowest bid being from Sisk Cleaning Services for \$295-Ridge Road location and \$195-Hilton Drive location for a total of \$490 per month. This is a one year contract due to the lease expiring on the Hilton Drive office building. Jim Conley made a motion to accept this bid from Sisk Cleaning Services. Bill Black seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

#### Contract for Lawn Care Services

Bids were also sent out for a three year Lawn Care Services for the Ridge Road office. Only two bids were received with the lowest bid being from Roy Johnson and Sons Lawn Care with a total of \$645. For 2016, the bid was for \$210 per month, 2017 for \$215 and 2018 for \$220 for a total of \$645. David Stovall made a motion to accept the three year agreement with Roy Johnson and Sons Lawn Care. Bill Chafin seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Will Wade questioned why the Council was having to approve these contracts when the amounts fell within limits that the Executive Director could approve as stated in the Procurement Policy that the Council previously adopted. Kevin Tallant answered that these are contracts for physical services and the State requires all contracts to be signed by the Council Chairman and Executive Director. Procurement Policy mainly deals with purchases.

#### 2015 Regional Work Program Update

Planning Director Adam Hazell stated that the 2015 Regional Plan Update had been presented to the Council prior to being submitted to DCA for their review and approval. This document was approved by DCA in December and now we must adopt the approved GMRC Regional Plan Update. This is the same document that was previously presented to the Council. Sonny James made a motion to adopt and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously. (Resolution attached)

#### GMRC Council Private Sector Representative

Forsyth County has recommended Robert Long, VP of Economic Development with the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce, to fill the vacant private section position on the Council. The GMRC Council officially makes these appointments with the recommendation from the cities and county they represent. Ken Schubring made a motion to fill the Forsyth County Private Sector position with Robert Long. Motion was seconded by Jim Conley and motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Scarborough also welcomed Andrea Gibby, Mayor of Young Harris, back to the Council. (Town County's city representative rotates every two years.)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The April GMRC Council meeting is scheduled to be sponsored by Banks County and City of Homer. This meeting will conflict with the ACCG Annual Conference. The Council discussed the possibility of the meeting being moved up one week to avoid this conflict. The Council

agreed as long as Banks County and City of Homer could make this change. We will notify the Council at the next meeting if this can be changed.

The February County Meeting will be sponsored by Habersham County and held at the Habersham EMC office.

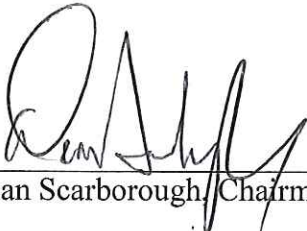
Cheryl Smith with the Georgia Department of Economic Development presented to the Council a copy of the 2016 Travel Guide for Georgia. She encouraged everyone to stop by their Chamber of Commerce and pick up a copy of the publication. It highlights a number of places and events in our region.

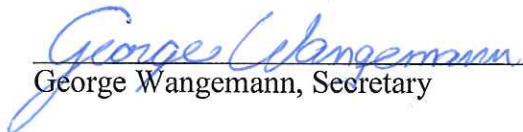
#### DOOR PRIZES

City of Toccoa and Stephens County provided a number of door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
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Dean Scarborough, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Wangemann, Secretary

# RESOLUTION

## GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 requires an annual update of the GMRC Regional Plan; and

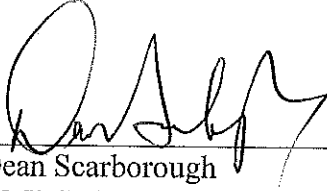
WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has promulgated certain rules containing the Minimum Planning Standards and procedures for Regional Planning; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Mountains RC staff has prepared the 2015 Update to the Regional Work Program portion of the Regional Plan in accordance with the Minimum Regional Planning Standards;

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has reviewed and approved the GMRC Regional Plan Update;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Mountains RC Council does hereby adopt the 2015 GMRC Regional Plan Update as approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016.

  
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Dean Scarborough  
GMRC Council Chairman

**GMRC COUNCIL  
ATTENDANCE SHEET  
2015-2016**

Page 1

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/30/15	8/27/15	9/24/15	10/29/15	11/19/15	12/4/15	1/28/16	2/25/16	3/31/16	4/28/16	5/26/16	6/30/16
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	P	P	P					
	Jerry Payne	P	P (R)	P	A	P (R)	P	P (R)					
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	P (R)					
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P	A	P	P	A	A	P					
	James Grogan**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Charlie Auvermann	A	P	P	P	P	A	P					
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	A	A	P	P (R)*	A	P (R)	P (R)*					
	Welch, Chuck			P (N)	P	A	P	P					
		V	V	V	V	V	V	V					
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P	P	P	P	P	P	A					
	Ralph Owens	A	P	P	P	A	P	P					
	Gerald Voyles	A	P	P	A	P	P	P					
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A	A	P	P	P	P	P					
	Audrey Turner	A	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P					
	Ken Schubring	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P	P (R)					
	George Wangemann***	P	A	P	P	P	A	P					
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P					
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	A	P	A	A	P					
	Tray Hicks	A	P	A	A	P	P	P (R)					
	Bill Chafin	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	A	P	A	P	A	P	P (R)					
	Sam Norton	A	P	A	P	A	P	A					
	J.B. Jones	A	P	P	P	P	P	P					

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Page 2

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RABUN	Greg James	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)					
	Debbie Chisholm	A	P	A	P	A	P	A					
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Dean Scarborough*	P	P	A	P	P	P	P					
STEPHENS	David Austin	A	P	P	A	A	P	P					
	L.J. Harrison	P	P	P	P	P	A	A					
	Bill Kendall	A	P (R)	P (R)	P (R)	A	P	P (R)					
	Andrea Gibby							P					
TOWNS	David Stovall	P	P	A	P (R)*	P	P	P					
	Lamar Paris	P	P	A	P	A	P	P					
	Jim Conley	P	P	P	P	P	P	P					
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	P	P	A	P	P					
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)*	A	P	P (R)*	A	P	P (R)*					
	Annie Sutton	A	P	P	A	P	P	P					
	Bill Black	P	P	P	P	A	P	P					
	Rex Farmer	A	P	P	P	P	P	P					
GOV APPT.		V	V	V	V	V	V	V					
	Will Wade	P	A	P	E	A	A	P					
		V	V	V	V	V	V	V					
	Peter Hill	P	A	A	P	A	A	P					

\* = PROXY

N = NEW MEMBER

E = EXCUSED

V = VACANCY

R = REPRESENTED

A = ABSENT

P = PRESENT

\* Chairman

\*\* Vice Chairman

\*\*\* Secretary